UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/508
4 October 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 9

GENERAL DEBATE

Letter dated 3 October 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In his statement made on 29 September 1995 in the general debate of the fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly (see A/50/PV.13), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia, Mr. Mate Granić, on several occasions condemned "the Serbian aggression" and stated that it was the underlying cause of the crisis in south-east Europe. Such an assessment is an insidious, unacceptable and ill-intentioned attempt by Croatia to mask its own aggression and vicious genocide that it has carried out against the Krajina Serbs.

Following the illegal secession of the Republic of Croatia from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Serbs in the Krajina had no choice but to resort to self-defence and resist Croat attempts to have their status reduced to one of a national minority. All the more so since the Croatian authorities reinstated the state symbols and insignia of the notorious Fascist puppet "Independent State of Croatia" from the Second World War period, which was responsible for the genocide and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Serbs.

Ever since the proclamation of independence, the Tudjman Government was intent on eliminating the Serbs from the Krajina and Croatia in general. By a policy of violence, harassment and intimidation, more than 300,000 Serbs were ethnically cleansed from the territory of Croatia. As though that were not enough, in August 1995, Croatia launched a merciless bombardment of cities and other civilian targets as part of a frontal attack on the Krajina, which triggered a mass exodus of 200,000 Serbs to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

By resisting the efforts of the Government of Croatia to ethnically cleanse them and effectively eliminate them from the Krajina, the Krajina Serbs were certainly not committing aggression but rather defending their ancestral homes and their legitimate right to remain there. It is particularly outrageous that Croatia should blame the Serbs for aggression when it is quite clear that the regular army of Croatia has been guilty of horrendous atrocities committed in western Slavonia, the Krajina and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which have resulted in the slaughter of thousands of Serbs and the burning and looting of their homes. Determined not to allow the Krajina Serbs to return to their homes, the Government of Croatia recently adopted a decree that effectively deprives the Serbs of their property rights.

If the term "Serbian aggression" has been used to define the activities of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) in the period preceding the recognition of Croatia as an independent State, it should be noted that the JNA was acting against the rebellious Republic of Croatia in full compliance with the Constitution in order to protect the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.